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OMAHA FOLK-LORE NOTES.

I was told the following in 1878, when at the Omaha agency :—

Some time ago the brother of Wacuce (Brave or Generous) was driving a two-horse wagon, a boy being with him. Suddenly the man and one horse were killed by lightning, and the wagon was knocked over on one side. It is the custom to bury such a person in the very place where he has been killed ; but as, in this case, it was in the public road, they rolled the body aside, and made the grave beside the road. On the return home of Wacuce he was told all the particulars of his brother's death. He reproved his wife for ignoring the old customs. The dead man should have had the soles of his feet slit, and he ought to have been buried face downward. Then he would have gone at once to the happy hunting grounds, without giving further trouble to the living. As it is, *he walks (!)* and he will not rest in peace till another person is slain by lightning and laid beside him. The wagon, too, was accursed, and not an Omaha would dare use it from that day.

Should a person be struck by lightning while in a house, the building must be deserted immediately.

Myths must not be told during the day, nor in summer, as the violation of this rule will cause snakes to come.

When a sick person dreams of a dead person whom he formerly knew, it is a sign of approaching death.

The name of a deceased father must not be mentioned.

Rocky Mountain beans, which are scarlet (ma-ka^a ji-de, or red medicine), confer good luck on their owners. If the beans *like* their owners, they will never be lost ; even if dropped accidentally they can be found again. Ni-k'u'-mi, an aged Oto woman,¹ told her granddaughter of her own experience with one of these beans. She had dropped it in the grass, but she found it on retracing her steps.

J. Owen Dorsey.

¹ She lived with the Omahas, being the mother of Mary La Flèche, the mother of Bright Eyes.